(vi) Head of Department of S&T Department shall have powers to sanction deputation abroad/international travel to scientists working under their control.

No officer of the ASI has been designated as Scientist.

(vii) The officers of Science and Technology Department are entitled to the Flexible Complementing Scheme.

The grant of Flexible Complementing Scheme to the eligible officers of ASI is being pursued with the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Personnel.

Observance of India-China Friendship Year

96. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any special plan to observe this year in a befitting way, to strengthen the age-old friendship as this year is being observed as India-China friendship year;

(b) what kind of cultural exchanges are going to take place; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A series of commemorative activities have been mutually agreed upon between the two sides, which will span over the entire year, involving high-level visits and activities related with cultural, economic, tourism, educational and defence exchanges.

Some of the main cultural exchanges related to visit of cultural delegations, classical dance troupes etc. and organization of academic seminar, exhibition etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Historical discoveries in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

97. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Buddhist Chaityas and Monastery, a three dimensional structure, broken images, pillars and pottery from the first and second century AD have been found in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh;